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SAVE EGGS BY CONSERVING CASES

A transcription by O. F. Johndrew, Office of Marketing Services, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded July 18, 1945. Time, without announcer's parts, 4 minutes and 32 seconds.

TRANSCRIPTION:

JOHNDREW: Poultrymen of this country are pretty well aware of the fact that we are short of egg cases. For two years we've had to use every case we could lay hands on---And every kind of case. We've had to use them until it wasn't safe to use them any more.

But unless you can see the total figures on breakage, you can't see the number of eggs that are needlessly broken each year. And you can't understand the amount of money that breakage is costing.

The losses occur all along the line of distribution. For example, the railroads paid claims amounting to around 650 thousand dollars last year. Now, this adds to the railroads' costs and these would eventually be reflected in freight rates.

But breakage---and added costs occur all along the way. Who pays the additional money...producers, shippers, wholesalers, consumers? I don't know just what share each group does pay...but I am sure that the waste of broken eggs amounts to several million dollars a year. This money waste is bad enough but the worst waste of all is the eggs. These days when we need them so badly we can't afford to waste eggs. As a nation we have put a lot of feed and labor and transportation into trying to get more eggs---for our armed forces, for domestic consumers and some for our allies. Producers have done a wonderful job in responding to the demand for more eggs. It is most unfortunate that we should have a greater breakage and loss when we need eggs so badly.

What's to be done about all this loss?

There is something for everyone to do...for every group contributing to the loss. Today let's see what you as egg producers can do.

You are the ones who start the eggs on their way from the nests to the consumers' kitchens. If you give the eggs a good start in a sound container it will be easier for everyone to do his part without breaking any of your eggs.

My first suggestion is that you see that your egg cases are whole and sound and ready to carry a load of eggs to their destination. If the cases aren't sound and solid, then the thing to do is to repair them. The material to use in repairing fiber cases is 3-inch, gummed-paper tape. Of course, wooden cases are different. First thing is to remove the lids so they won't be damaged. Then you go over the case carefully and wherever it needs strengthening you slap in a 3-penny concrete coated nail.

And in packing eggs it makes a difference which end of the egg is up.

It probably is surprising to poultrymen who have always packed eggs with their small ends down to find that there are many egg producers who don't follow that practice. Always pack eggs with their small ends down to keep the yolk in the same relative position in the egg and to aid in preventing damage to the egg shell membranes.

And if you run across some extra large eggs, it's best to keep them at home. However, if you have a lot of them, pack them 18 to a filler instead of 36.

And finally, when the eggs are all packed, close the cases up completely. Thousands of dozens of eggs packed in wooden cases are broken each year because only one slat is put over the top of the case. "Put the whole top on the case," that's the rule.

Those aren't hard things to do...any of them...Once you get in the habit of doing them you'll automatically do the right thing. But, if you don't do them now, you're probably thinking that you'll want to remember just what these suggestions are.

If you'll get a copy of a booklet that has just been published, you'll find a list of things that you can do...and a lot of pictures of what happens when you don't do them. This little publication has a lot of pictures that will help others besides producers along the route that the eggs travel.

The name of that publication is a long one. If you'll use two words "Egg Cases", add the number 564 and send your request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., we will see that it is sent out to you right away.

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OPENING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE): We work too hard to produce food to be willing to see any of it wasted. And we need all of it that can be produced. But sometimes part of our food production is lost...A loss that could be prevented.

Today we are to learn by transcription how to prevent some of those losses. Our speaker is O. F. Johndrew, marketing specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. All right Mr. Johndrew, what's your advice on how to save eggs?

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE): If some of you didn't have a pencil and paper ready to make a note of that bulletin that O. F. Johndrew of the U. S. Department of Agriculture told us about, let me give it to you again. "Egg Cases"...the number 564...send your request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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